



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/707,929

01/26/2004

Montserrat Pinol Pedret

8140ES

1928

23688

7590

08/10/2005

Bruce E. Harang

PO BOX 872735

VANCOUVER, WA 98687-2735

EXAMINER

GIRARDI, VANESSA MARY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SP

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/707,929	PEDRET ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Vanessa Girardi	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/26/2004</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Oath/Declaration*

1. The title of the invention stated in the Declaration is "Socket Used to House Female Plugs and Microrelays" does not match the title in the heading of the Abstract and Specification "A Plugboard for Housing Sockets and Micro-Relays". The invention can be represented by only one title, appropriate correction is required.

### *Drawings*

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must clearly identify every feature of the invention specified in the claims as well as any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention MPEP § 608.02(d).
3. The lead lines for reference characters 2 and 3 seem to point to different sides of the same feature yet are described in the specification as two different features. Greater clarity is needed in what is being represented by these reference characters.
4. Reference character 4 is not described at all in the specification.
5. The plugboard itself is not represented by a reference character.
6. None of the features in two of the views on page 2 of the drawings have any reference characters whereby the reader is able to understand what aspect of the inventive feature(s) is being illustrated by each of the views.
7. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(u) because each view requires a distinct figure number. Appropriate corrections required. No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing

Art Unit: 2833

should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Specification***

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the sentence structure. It is suggested the applicant consider using more than one sentence to describe the invention with greater emphasis on clarity regarding the number of holes involved and which holes contribute to the inventive feature. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

***Claim Objections***

8. Claim 3 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim which refers to more than one other claim shall refer to such other claims in the alternative only. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, claim 3 has not been further treated on the merits.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lages et al. (US 6,191,672 B1). Lages et al. discloses a plugboard for housing sockets and micro-relays, of the type used for housing a plurality of connectors, sockets or micro-relays (Col. 2, lines 10-13) composed of a base **1** and a plurality of holes **15-17** having corresponding contact chambers **25-27** for housing connectors, sockets or micro-relays **38**, characterized in that the holes are not aligned with each other and with the position of alternating holes for introducing the connector, socket or micro-relay rotated 180° with regard to the position of the remaining holes intended for housing the connectors, sockets or micro-relays of the ends of the plugboard (Col. 4, lines 14-17) also clearly illustrated in Fig. 2.

Art Unit: 2833

With respect to claim 2; Lages et al. further discloses the plugboard discussed above is characterized in that it has three holes **15-17** wherein the central hole **16** is not aligned with regard to the two holes **15** and **17** of the ends of the plugboard and with the position for introducing the connector, socket or micro-relay rotated 180° with regard to the position of the two holes intended for housing the connectors, sockets or micro-relays of the ends of the plugboard (Fig. 2).

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vanessa Girardi: Telephone number (571) 272-5924.

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST)

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VG  
Art Unit 2833  
July 27, 2005



THO D. TA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER